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# Be Sure To Read This

An article appearing in the Ranch, Seattle, Washington, of October 15th, 1908, and written by Rev. F. Walden, Toppenish, Wash., Horticultural Editor of that paper.

**Note by Stark Bros.**—The Rev. F. Walden was the pioneer of the Yakima Valley of Washington and must have been a prophet to have foreseen and foretold and brought to a full realization, the marvelous fruitage of that wonderful valley, which is the fruit growers' paradise—the modern commercial Garden of Eden. The story of the "chosen valley" as told by our venerable friend, Mr. Walden, is of intense interest, for in his early day no one dreamed of such wondrous horticultural possibilities. He was thought to be wild and visionary. The first Elberta peach trees he planted were from Stark Nurseries and were delivered by express; now he is shipping car loads of Elberta and the finest Apples. Those unacquainted with these irrigated valleys in the far West can have but little conception of the perfection of the enormous crops produced. Some readers may think the accounts of the Fruit Grower, St. Joseph, Mo., are overdrawn, but to magnify such orchards is impossible—they are beyond comparison. Speed the day when these perfect fruits in their fresh state may be within the reach of every man, woman and child throughout the U. S. and across the water, and the evaporated fruits and canned goods put within the reach of all the inhabitants of the world. Until this is done, don't talk about that old argument, "glutting" markets, which was even prevalent during our Grandfather's time, Judge James Stark, who, like the Rev. Mr. Walden, planted the first grafted orchard in Pike County, Missouri.

This is the article in full as it appeared:

I am in receipt of a letter from W. P. Stark of Louisiana, Mo., President of the Missouri State Board of Horticulture, who in company with James M. Irvine, the editor of the Fruit-Grower, visited Yakima county about the first of September. As throwing some light on the question of disposing of our fruits, I quote this letter in part here:

"Mr. Irvine and the writer returned the 10th (September), making our last stop in the Bitter Root country, another great valley. How are you getting along with the fruit crop in Washington? We undertook to buy some good peaches and apples at Billings, Montana; they had a very few common California peaches and some cull Transparent apples. What a contrast to your magnificent Elbertas, etc.! At this very time the market price in North Yakima was low on peaches and yet good markets reasonably distant unsupplied. Proper distribution is the secret of future success." This condition revealed by this statement from Mr. Stark is very suggestive. No doubt it would have paid a few growers very well to have kept an agent at Billings or some other point in that part of Montana and to have sent him car loads to be distributed in the near-by towns. I am somewhat surprised that some of our enterprising buyers did not bountifully supply the Billings market. I think Mr. Stark expresses the truth very forcibly when he says that "proper distribution is the secret of success." The buyer who will treat the growers fairly and not allow himself to be bound hand and foot by some organization will hold a large trade and make reasonable profits.

While making the quotation from Mr. Stark, I think I may be pardoned in making further quotations from his letter. We drove along two sides of our experimental orchard while he and Mr. Irvine were on our fruit ranch. I make this mention that our

readers may know what it means by "a great experimental work there." Mr. Stark alighted and secured at least one sample from the experimental orchard where we are testing 80 varieties of apple—several of them from Stark Bro's. nurseries. I quote further: "We appreciate what you said in comparing the Black Ben with Gano; Gano being more like old Ben etc., and when you have the spare time we will be pleased to have you give us a letter along this line, also other points of interest concerning varieties that should be planted, and not planted, for the benefit of others. You have certainly done a great experimental work there, and in our business we have gotten best results from individuals who do work of this kind because they love it. Again thanking you for such a pleasant and profitable outing in your orchard, we remain, truly,

WILLIAM P. STARK."

It has always been a mystery to me how some fruit growers can maintain that the Black Ben and Gano are one and the same apple. As we grow them here, no man unless very poor observer or blind with prejudice, would ever claim that they are identical. The Black Ben, as we raise it here under our almost continued sunshine, during the summer and autumn takes on a much darker hue than the Gano. The latter differs from the old Ben Davis in being more uniformly red but never so far as my observation goes, has the deep black of the Black Ben. The Black Ben sells better owing to its very fine appearance.

It is truly gratifying to have such a man as Mr. Stark speak so well of my experiments in testing the different varieties of the apple. It was a matter of regret on our part that we could not have had Mr. Stark and Mr. Irvine spend a much longer time in our 100-acre orchard. I know it would have been time well spent on my part.

